

SWANAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFE, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

E. SEYMOUR, M.R.S.I., A.M.I.C.F.
Certified Meat and
Food Inspector.

Health Visitor
(Dorset County Council Appointment)

MISS M. O'BRYEN HODGE.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointment of Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanage Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Swanage Urban District for the year 1944.

The total number of births was 112 giving a birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population of 22.1, which is 5.9 higher than the previous year, as compared with 17.6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 80, giving a death rate of 16.2 per 1,000 estimated resident population, which is 3.7 less than the figure for the previous year, as compared with 11.6 per 1,000 for England and Wales.

There were four deaths of children under the age of one year giving an infant death rate of 35.7 per 1,000 live births, as compared with a rate of 46 per 1,000 live births for England and Wales.

The health of the district was satisfactory during the year and the number of cases of infectious diseases notified remained low. The notification rates for infectious diseases for the district, with the exception of Erysipelas and Pneumonia which were higher, were much lower than the rates for England and Wales. Although no cases of Dysentery were notified mild gastro-enteritis, suggestive of Sonne Dysentery, was prevalent during the late summer.

Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and three new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified; there was one death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

Scabies and Vermineous Conditions were not as prevalent as in previous years in the district. Forty cases of Scabies and two cases of Vermineous Conditions of the Scalp were notified during the year; the majority of these cases were treated at the First Aid Post at "Playland".

Satisfactory progress was made during the year under the Council's scheme for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria. It will be noticed that the percentage of the child population under 5 years of age considered immunised at the end of the year has dropped from 80.5% to 54.7%, and the corresponding figure for the age group 5 to 15 years has risen from 75.8% to 92.1%. This variation is almost wholly due to the fact that in previous years the figure for the children in each age group was based on the 1931 Census figure, whereas the figures now used are supplied by the Ministry of Food and are a more correct estimate of the present population in those age groups.

In the month of May a report was presented to the Council stressing the urgent need for constructing the proposed filtration plant at the Corfe Castle Waterworks as an additional safeguard to chlorination treatment of the water from that source. The proposed work has been approved by the Ministry of Health and should be completed in 1945.

Owing to the contamination of the Corfe Castle Well by the polluted nearby stream, this source of water supply is very undesirable. The condition of the untreated water will undoubtedly get worse as time goes on and there is an increased demand both from the Urban District and surrounding areas resulting in increased pumping of the well. The Council have been advised that the Corfe Castle source of supply should ultimately be abandoned and as there are no suitable alternative sources of supply reasonably near to Swanage plans for a joining with the neighbouring Rural District Council in a joint water supply scheme were under consideration during the year.

I would like to draw attention to the condition of the drainage of houses in Hillview Road. These houses, where baths and water closets are installed, drain to cesspools, some of the houses have no drainage and privies are provided. The Council originally intended that the Priestley Road sewer should extend to serve Hillview Road houses, but owing to the outbreak of war the Hillview Road section was not laid. The Council should, now that conditions are returning to normal, consider extending the sewer to serve the houses in Hillview Road.

The problem of inadequately housed families on the return of men and women to civilian life from the Services was mentioned in the report for the year 1945. The Council have sites approved for 128 houses as an extension of their Groyseed Housing Estate. The sites are ready with all the main services laid. It is hoped that an early start on the building of these houses will be possible on the cessation of hostilities.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration and support, and also to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation and the efficient manner in which he has carried out his many duties during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

E.J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

are. - 2760 acres, with a further 31 acres of foreshore.

Population.	Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population, Mid. :					
1944 ..	..	..	..	..	..	4,951
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the rate book ..						1,992
Rateable value .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	£70,216
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	£262-14-0

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births)	Legitimate	97	45	52	) Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	22.1
	Illegitimate	15	7	8		
Still Births)	Legitimate	4	3	1	) Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	34.4
	Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Deaths		80	29	51	) Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	16.2

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puer: & post-abortion: sepsis ..	-	-
No. 30. Other puerperal causes ..	1	8.6
Total	1	8.6

Deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	41.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	12
" " Measles " "	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea " "	-

Birth, Death, Infants and Maternal Mortality Rates during the Year 1944.

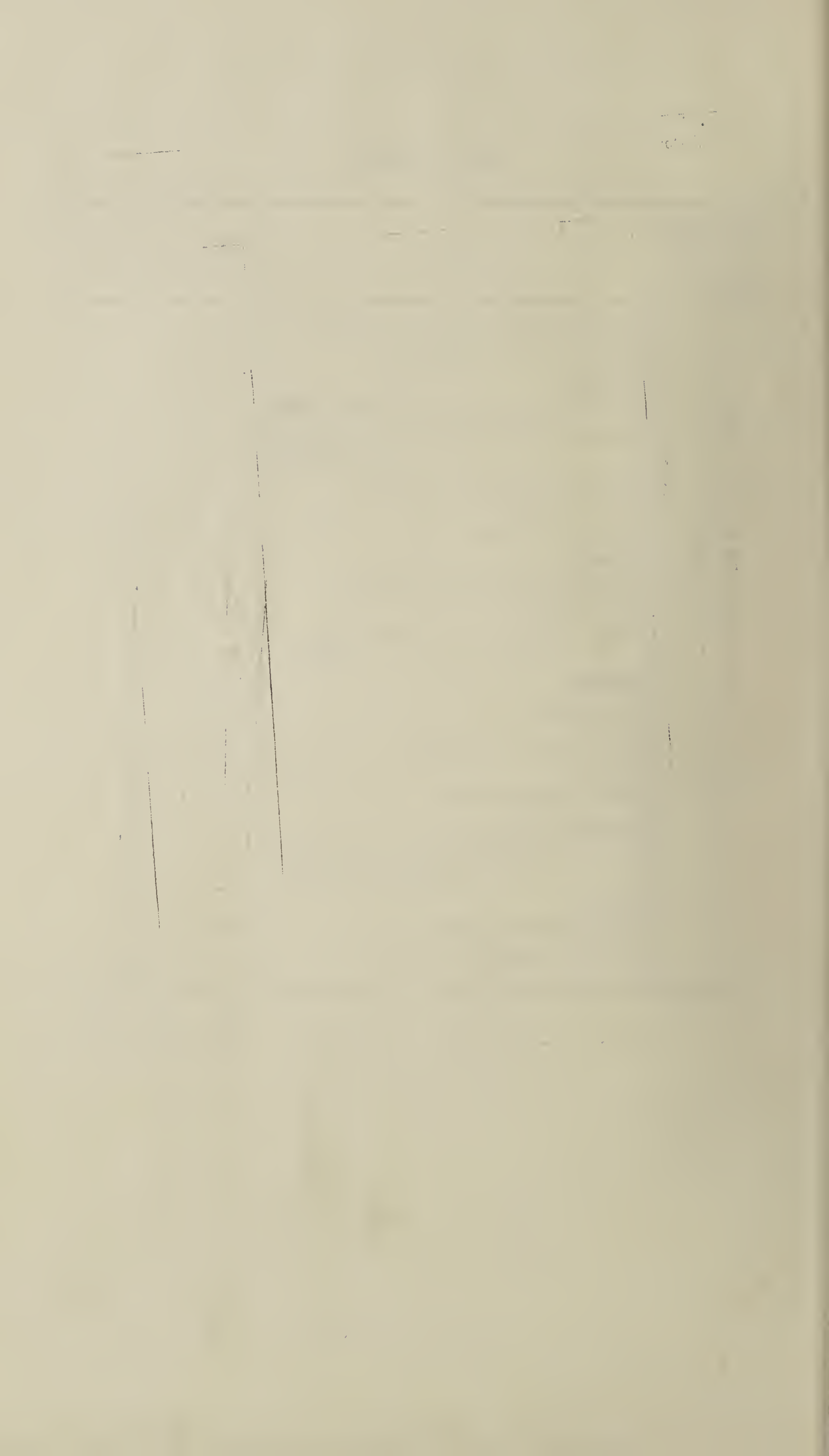
	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births			
England and Wales	17.6	0.50	11.6	46	4.8
146 Smaller Towns estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	20.9	0.61	12.4	44	4.4
SMALLER	22.1	0.81	16.2	35	-

Maternal Mortality:-

	Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Infections	Other
England and Wales	0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25
SMALLER	-	-	-	8.0

Cause of Deaths.

No. in Registrar-General's Abridged List.	Cause	Total	Male	Female
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	1
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	1	1	-
9	Influenza	1	-	1
11	Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	1	-	1
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M) uterus (F)	1	-	1
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	2	-
15	Cancer of breast	3	-	3
16	Cancer of all other sites	6	2	4
17	Diabetes	1	-	1
18	Intra-cranical vascular lesions	6	1	5
19	Heart disease	33	12	26
20	Other diseases of the circulatory system	2	2	-
22	Pneumonia	6	2	4
26	Appendicitis	1	-	1
27	Other digestive diseases	1	-	1
28	Nephritis	1	1	-
30	Other maternal causes	1	-	1
31	Premature birth	1	1	-
32	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile diseases	1	1	-
33	Suicide	1	1	-
34	Road traffic accidents	2	2	-
36	All other causes	2	1	1
		80	29	51



There were no special noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year in the services provided in the area.

Ambulance Service.

The ambulance was called out on 142 occasions and the total mileage travelled was 4,255.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There was no change in the sources of water supply or its treatment during the year. Samples of raw and treated water are taken at regular intervals for bacteriological examination. Dosage of water with chlorine is controlled by regular estimations at the pumping stations and checked by chlorine estimations at the County Laboratory. Thirty-nine samples were taken at Ulwell Pumping Station and 34 at Corfe Castle Pumping Station for chlorine estimations at the County Laboratory. No samples were taken for chemical analysis.

Number of water samples taken for Bacteriological Examination:-

	Untreated	Treated
Corfe Castle Source	48	69
Ulwell Source	36	37
Samples taken from taps in the town	-	11
Total number of samples taken	...	201

Results of Bacteriological Examination:-

Untreated Water

B. Coli per 100 ml.	Samples from Corfe Castle Well	Samples from Ulwell Well
Nil	-	16
1-2	1	5
3-10	7	9
10-25	14	4
25-100	11	2
100-150	-	-
Over 150	15	-
Total Samples	48	36

Treated Water

B. Coli per 100 ml.	Samples from Corfe Castle Supply	Samples from Ulwell Supply
Nil	49	33
1-2	10	1
3-10	6	2
10-25	3	1
25-50	1	-
Total Samples	69	37

Eleven samples were taken from supply taps in the Swanage Town Area.

B. Coli was absent in 9 samples
 " " aerogenes 8 per 100 ml. in 1 sample
 " " " 13 " " " " " "

The type of B. Coli in samples of untreated water from the Corfe Castle Source was faecal in the higher counts and tended to be mainly aerogenes type in the lower counts. The B. Coli in the samples of untreated water from the Ulwell Source, and all samples of treated water, was of the aerogenes type.

The results of bacteriological examination of the untreated water from the Corfe Castle Well show that very serious pollution occurs. The condition of the water in this well deteriorates rapidly following local heavy rainfall

and ruin has to be suspended as the condition of the water makes chlorination impossible. The urgency of the work of constructing the proposed filtration plant at Corfe Castle was stressed in a report to the Council in May and it is now probable that the plant will be ready for use by the end of 1945.

Water Supply to Houses in Urban District.

	Percentage
From Public mains (a) direct to dwelling houses	99.45
(b) by means of standpipes	0.55

The percentage of the population supplied in each case is approximately the same as that for the houses served.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections	..	..	..	1,546
Number of informal notices	..	..	..	106
" " " " complied with	..	..	..	90
" " " " outstanding	..	..	..	16
" " statutory " ..	..	..	..	2
" " " " complied with	..	..	..	2
" " " " outstanding	..	..	..	-

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no alteration to the sewerage system during the year. Eight houses have cesspool drainage, twelve houses have no drainage and are provided with rail closets; all other houses are connected to the main sewerage system.

Drain Testing, etc.

Existing drains examined	..	..	..	69
Cesspools, filter beds etc. examined at Corfe Castle (Water Shed)				4
Choked drains cleared	..	..	..	45
Defective drains repaired	..	..	..	11
Existing drains reconstructed	..	..	..	4
Old drains abolished	..	..	..	6
New drains constructed	..	..	..	21
Sub-soil drains reconstructed	..	..	..	7
Broken drains sealed off	..	..	..	4
New sewer connections examined	..	..	..	9
Cast-iron cover replaced	..	..	..	10
New vent pipes provided	..	..	..	4
New manholes constructed	..	..	..	9
Water tests applied	..	..	..	19
Smoke tests applied	..	..	..	11
Colour tests applied	..	..	..	8
Revisits in respect to the above	..	..	..	61

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	..	..	..	106
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	209
2. (a) No. of dwelling-houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	..	..	..	24
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	38
3. No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation				2
4. No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	..	..	11

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	..	105
--	----	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
2. No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
a. By Owners	11
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	-

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
2. No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
a. By Owners	2
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	-

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which:-	
a. Demolition Orders were made	1
b. Undertakings not to use for human habitation until rendered fit, accepted	1
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	15

Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV) Overcrowding.

(a) 1. No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	3
2. " " families dwelling therein	4
3. " " persons " "	22
(b) No. of cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
2. " " persons concerned in such cases	6

In addition to the 15 dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders, 42 houses were demolished in consequence of damage by enemy action.

New Houses.

Total No. of new houses erected during 1944 by the Local Authority	-
No. of houses owned by the Local Authority	171
Approximate No. of working class houses in district	1,000

No building of houses was undertaken by the Council during the year. The number of houses owned by the Local Authority remains the same as in the previous year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of Persons on Register at end of 1944	11
" " Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1944	14
Number of Dairy Farms inspected	11
" " inspections	69
" " notices served	14
" " " complied with	14
" " Milkshops	5
" " inspections	40
" " notices served	10
" " " complied with	10
" " milk samples taken (pasteurised)	12

Periodic inspections of pasteurising establishments were made and all thermometers used in the plant were checked against a standard test thermometer.

Whilst much was being done just before outbreak of war to improve the conditions under which milk was produced at the small dairy farms in the district, the general standard of cowsheds and dairies must be regarded as poor. The buildings are poor and adequate facilities for cleansing of milk vessels and milker's hands are absent in nearly all cases.

Owing to war-time restrictions it has not been possible to carry out extensive alterations to cowsheds and dairies.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941.

The following licences were in force under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1941 at the end of the year:-

Number of Pasteurising Establishments	..	..	2
" " Accredited Milk Producers	..	..	1
" " Tuberculin Tested Producers	..	..	2
" " Dairies Licenced to bottle pasteurised milk in addition to above pastourising establishments	..	..	1
Number of Dairies selling pasteurised milk under supplementary licence	..	..	1

Pasteurised Milk.

Total samples of pastourised milk taken	..	..	12
Number of samples which passed the phosphatase test	..	..	10
" " " " failed to pass the phosphatase test			1 (by 8 units)
			1 " 3 "

Meat and Food Inspection.

Slaughter of animals has been discontinued at local slaughterhouses during the war. All meat for the district is brought from a Government Controlled Slaughterhouse at Dorchester.

Number of visits to Meat Shops	..	..	..	103
" " " " Government Meat Vans	..	..	..	14
" " " " Fish Shops	..	..	..	15
" " " " Bakehouses	..	..	..	48
" " " " Grocers Shops etc.	..	..	..	45

Amount of Food Condemned:-

Cooked Meats	..	..	..	..	76 lbs.
Various Foods	..	..	..	..	70 tins
Fruit and Vegetables	..	..	..	..	205½ lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	6½ stone
Various Cakes	..	..	..	..	42

Amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption at Dorchester Abattoir - 8,971½ lbs.

Inspections other than those previously included.

British Restaurant	..	..	..	..	12
Billets	..	..	..	..	51
In respect to Gas Masks	..	..	..	..	16
" " " Fingsgarn Sick Bay	..	..	..	..	12
" " " Other Premises	..	..	..	..	20
Disinfections due to Infectious Disease, etc.	..	..	..	..	45
Visits in respect to Verminous Persons	..	..	..	..	20
Revisits in respect to the above	..	..	..	..	20
Miscellaneous visits to premises	..	..	..	..	15
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	46
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	36
Port Restrictions Act	..	..	..	..	8
Public Tip	..	..	..	..	14
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	14
Schools	..	..	..	..	24
Rat Repression	..	..	..	..	60
Rivers and Streams	..	..	..	..	24
Cinemas	..	..	..	..	8
Stables	..	..	..	..	16
Second-hand Shops	..	..	..	..	4
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	32
Licenced Premises	..	..	..	..	6
Smoke Abatement	..	..	..	..	2
Certificates of Essentiality (Essential Repairs to Houses)	..	..	..	..	20
Water Sampling, Milk Sampling, etc.	..	..	..	..	23

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	2	-
Forporeal Pyrexia	2	-	-
Pneumonia	9	3	2
Erysipelas	9	-	-
Measles	8	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	-	-

Notification Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns	SWANSEA
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00
Corobro Strinal Fever	0.05	0.04	0.00
Scarlet Fever	2.40	2.67	0.40
Whooping Cough	2.49	2.29	0.60
Diphtheria	0.53	0.69	0.00
Erysipelas	0.29	0.28	1.82
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	4.16	3.94	1.62
Pneumonia	0.97	0.82	1.52

Diphtheria Immunisation.

1. Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st January and 31st December, 1944 ..

Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over, but under 15	Total
70	6	76

11. (A) Approximate estimated number of children in the Authority's area at 31st December, 1944
- (B) Percentage of the child population shown under (A) considered immunised at 31st December, 1944

Under 5 Between 5 & 15

..402.. 850.....

..54:7.% 92:1.....

Disinfection of Bedding, Clothing, and Rooms.

Scabies	..	..	..	..	..	30
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	12
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	12
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	9
Verrinous	..	..	..	..	..	3

In addition to the above 6 premises were treated for flea infestation.

Scabies and Verrinous Conditions.

The following are the number of children notified as excluded from school sufferin, from scabies or verrinous conditions:-

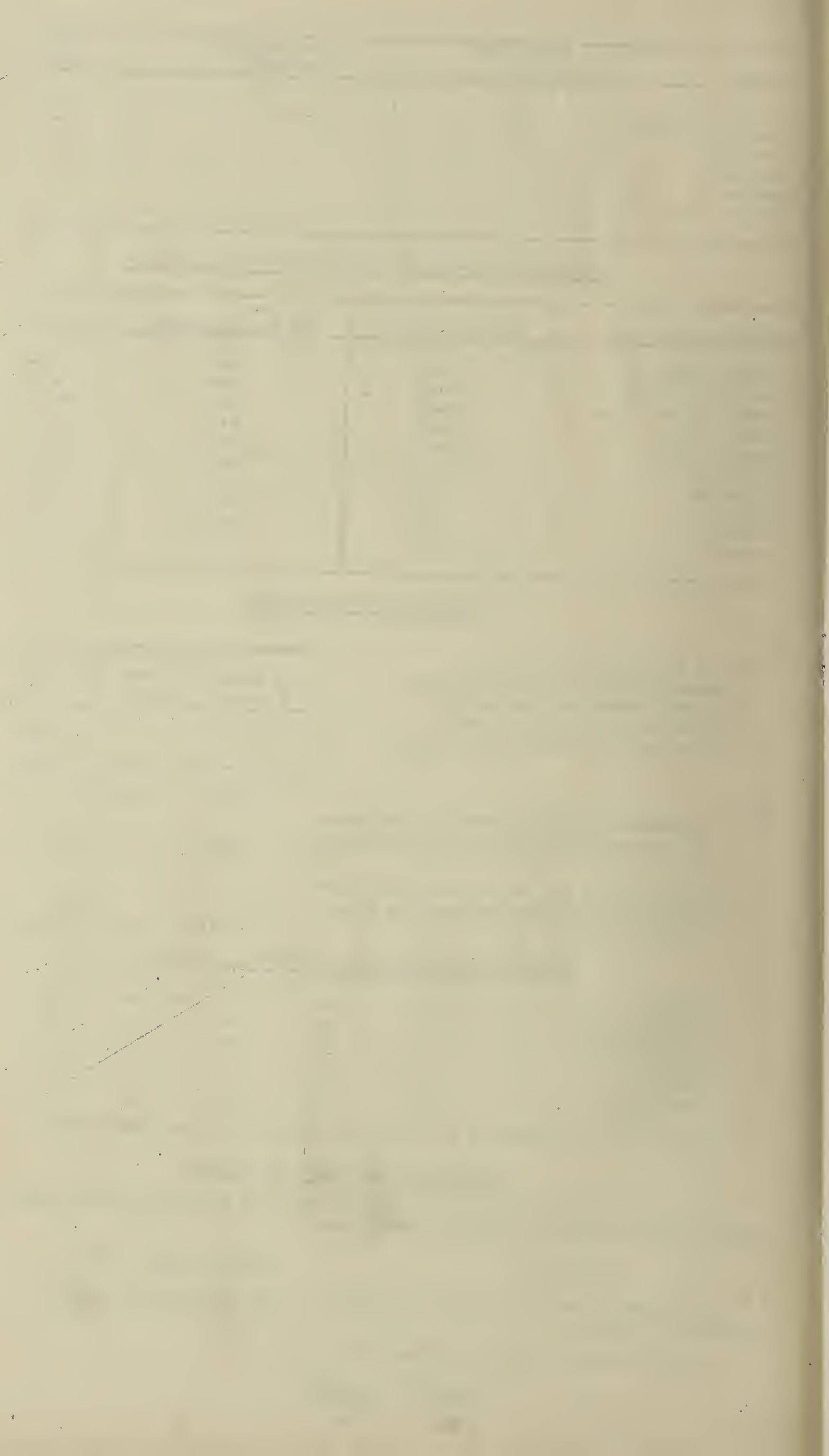
Scabies - 2.

Verrinous Scalp - 2.

The number of scabies discovered during the year was 13 adults and 27 children. Total 40.

Cases of scabies treated at First Aid Post:-

<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>
13	23



Visits are paid to the homes of all cases to ensure that all persons suspected of being affected have adequate treatment.

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary during the year under Sec. 172 Public Health Act, 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1944:-

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...			1				1	
1	...								
5	...			1					
10	...				1				
15	...								
20	...								
25	...		1						
35	...								
45	...		1						
55	...						1		
65 and upwards	...								
Totals	...	-	3	2	1	-	1	1	-

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1944:-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
10	10	20	4	7	11	31

